

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17-19, and 21-28 are now pending. Of these, claims 1-11, 14, and 22-27 remain withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims under consideration, claims 12, 15, 21, and 28 are independent. Claims 12, 15-19, and 21 have been amended and Claim 28 is newly added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amendments do not include new matter.

Claims 15 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has amended claims 15 and 17-19 to attend to the matters noted in the Office Action as giving rise to the rejection. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 12, 15, 17-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over JP Document No. 2002-016812 (Yoshida et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,868,279 (Funamizu et al.) and 5,289,570 (Suzuki). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As recited in independent claim 12, Applicant's invention is directed to an image forming apparatus that has an image repeat function capable of performing a layout process to arrange plural same data in first and second directions on the same face of a recording sheet. The apparatus includes first and second accepting units that respectively accept, from a user, a number of the data to be arranged in the first direction and a number to be arranged in the second direction. A selecting unit selects, for each image forming job executed by the image forming apparatus, a first layout mode or a second layout mode. In

the first layout mode, mutually adjacent same data of the number accepted by the first accepting unit are arranged in the first direction with at least one interval and mutually adjacent same data of a number accepted in the second accepting unit are arranged in the second direction with at least one interval. In the second layout mode, the mutually adjacent same data in each direction are arranged without an interval. Further, the apparatus includes a controller that arranges the data in accordance with the selected mode.

Independent claims 15 and 21 are directed to a control method and a computer-readable medium, respectively. These claims recite features generally similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 12.

Thus, with the present invention, a selection is made for each image forming job executed by an image forming apparatus in order to set a first mode in which mutually adjacent same data have at least one interval and a second layout mode in which mutually adjacent same data are arranged without an interval.

Yoshida et al. is directed to a color facsimile apparatus. In the described apparatus, if the size of a received image is A6, the facsimile apparatus records, on an A4 size sheet, two A6 size images in the main scan direction and two A6 size images in the sub-scan direction. While Figure 14 of that document shows a line between the various images, Yoshida et al. does not describe forming an interval between the data. Thus, Yoshida et al. does not describe or suggest the interval selecting aspect of the present invention.

Funamizu et al. is directed to a copying machine that is able to copy images of two or more originals on a single sheet of paper. Funamizu et al. is not primarily directed at arranging plural copies of the same data on a single sheet of paper. Moreover, that

document does not describe providing intervals between the different image data provided on a single sheet.

Suzuki is directed to an image editing system for forming boundaries in picture image data. In the described system, a boundary region may be formed between picture images to be output. However, the system described in Suzuki does not select whether or not to set a boundary region for each image forming job to be executed. Instead, such a decision is made with an initial setting of the copying machine. Thus, when an initial setting is made to print without a boundary region, that result occurs with multiple print jobs regardless of whether a user desires a boundary region.

Accordingly, Yoshida et al., Funamizu et al., and Suzuki, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, at least, the features of selecting, for each image forming job executed by an image forming apparatus, a first layout mode or a second layout mode, (1) the first layout mode being that, in the image repeat function, mutually adjacent same data are arranged in a first direction with at least one interval and mutually adjacent same data are arranged in the second direction with at least one interval, (2) the second layout mode being that, in the image repeat function, the mutually adjacent same data of the number accepted are arranged in the first and second directions without an interval, as generally recited in independent claims 12, 15, and 21.

Further, new independent claim 28 recites features relating to selecting, for each image forming job executed by the image forming apparatus, whether or not to place an interval between image data. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 28 also defines over the applied documents for reasons generally similar to those discussed above.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims under consideration are allowable.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continued to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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